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ER 8-5454

The Honorable John Taber
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear John:

You may recall that when I appeared before the special subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee which dealt with the budget for CIA, I discussed with the subcommittee the problem of the pay scale of the senior officers of this Agency. In particular I pointed out that it was becoming increasingly difficult to obtain and to retain the highly qualified personnel which were necessary to carry out the important assignments given this Agency under law and under National Security Council directives. In the present world situation, with which you are so familiar, this is becoming more and more difficult.

You and the other members of the subcommittee were, I felt, quite sympathetic to the idea of my using the powers granted me under the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (P.L. 110, 81st Congress) to effect adjustment of the salary scale. I then pointed out that in view of the pendency of the Executive Pay Bill I thought it was wise to await action on that measure before proceeding.

The Executive Pay Bill has now become law (P.L. 854, 84th Congress), and it adjusts the salary of the Director and Deputy Director of Central Intelligence. For security reasons, however, we had not proposed the inclusion of other senior CIA officials in the Executive Pay Bill, as was the case with most executive departments and agencies of the Government. Under these circumstances I have consulted with the White House and with the Bureau of the Budget, with the view to putting into effect a pay increase which would affect about twenty five of the senior officers of the Agency in headquarters and about ten in the field. The total annual cost of the increases presently contemplated will be roughly $75,000 per annum. This we can readily absorb in our existing budget.

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In the light of the pay increases now specifically authorized for comparable positions in the Departments of State and of Defense, I feel that this is a modest allocation to the Central Intelligence Agency, and it will have a most important and beneficial morale effect. While I felt that in this matter I had the sympathetic understanding of you and the other members of the CIA subcommittee, I wanted you to know of the lines along which I am thinking and of the action I have proposed to the White House and the Budget Bureau.

I shall of course report to the Appropriations subcommittee on this matter when I have the pleasure of meeting with you next year.

Sincerely yours,

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles
Director

25X1 [redacted]

AWD/NSP:fm (10 Aug 56)

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